

BALANCED MIGRATION



20 May 2009

New figures confirm need for action on immigration

Commenting on today's publication of immigration statistics, the Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration, Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, said:

“As we have long predicted, the number of East Europeans returning home is starting to increase. This mainly explains a small fall in net migration to Britain. In this forest of statistics, we must not confuse the wood with the trees. Even at the current rate, immigration will account for about 7 million of the projected growth of 10 million in England's population over the next 20 years or so. The case for urgent action to control and reduce immigration is unchanged – and, as our poll yesterday showed, the public demand for action remains very strong indeed.”

Net foreign immigration – the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants – has run at about 300,000 a year for the last five years. The YouGov poll, commissioned by Migrationwatch at the request of the Cross Party Group, found that:

- more than 7 out of 10 adults want immigration cut by over 80%. Just 1 in 20 adults support the current level.
- 17% of adults questioned believed that net foreign immigration should be reduced to 50,000 a year – a level last seen in the early 1990s.
- 39% of adults thought that there should be no net immigration (i.e. the number of immigrants should reflect the number of emigrants).
- 16% of adults thought there should be more emigrants than immigrants.
- 79% of people were “concerned” or “very concerned” about the issue of immigration.

Notes to editors

1. For further information please contact Patrick White on 020 7219 6636.
2. The Rt Hon Frank Field MP and The Hon Nicholas Soames MP are Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration. The Group's Vice-Chairmen are Lord (Bill) Jordan CBE (former President of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union) and Daniel Kawczynski MP (Conservative, Shrewsbury & Atcham). Other members include Tobias Ellwood MP, Roger Godsiff MP, Peter Kilfoyle MP, David Taylor MP, Lord Ahmed, Lord Anderson, Lord Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury) Baroness Cox, Field Marshal Lord Inge KG, GCB, PC, DL, Lord Skidelsky and Lord Wakeham.
3. The poll's figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2072 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 12th - 14th May 2009. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).